

Weekly One Liners 09th to 15th January 2023

Nation celebrates 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas on 9th January 2023

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas or NRI Day 2023

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas or NRI Day is formally observed on **9 January** to celebrate the day when **Mahatma Gandhi** returned from South Africa to Mumbai, India. The day is celebrated to acknowledge the contribution of the non-resident Indian community in helping in the development of the country. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023 has conducted in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, from 8-10 January, 2023. It is important to note that this is the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, or NRI Day.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023: Theme

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the official theme of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023 is "**Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal.**" The theme focuses on the importance of the Indian diaspora in the development of the country. It is important to note that every year a new theme is chosen to celebrate the day.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023: Significance

The purpose of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is to give NRIs a forum to discuss their attitudes toward India and to build bridges of goodwill with their fellow citizens. It also entails informing the natives of their brothers' accomplishments abroad and informing the foreigners of what their fellow citizens expect of them.

Another goal of the organisation is to establish a network of Indians living abroad in 110 different nations. educating the general public on the contribution that immigrants have made to India's positive international relations. establishing a link between the rising Indian generation and the immigrant brethren. to talk about the challenges that Indian workers encounter when working abroad.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas: History

The decision to celebrate Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was taken in accordance with recommendations of the High Level Committee (HLC) on the Indian Diaspora set up by government of India under the chairmanship of **L. M. Singhvi**. The then Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, received the report of the Committee at a public function at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on 8 January 2002, and announced the "Pravasi Bharatiya Divas" (PBD) on 9 January 2002. The day was chosen to mark the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India in 1915.

After this day was administered in 2000, it was first celebrated in 2003. Here are more insights concerning the historical backdrop of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas – The Pravasi Bhartiya Divas date is the 9th of January. Most people celebrated this as NRI Day in India. NRI Day and pravasi Bhartiya divas is the same thing.

Mascot, torch and anthem of Khelo India Youth Games 2022 unveiled in Bhopal

Khelo India Youth Game 2022:-

The **anthem, mascot and a 'smart torch' for the fifth edition** of the youth games were unveiled by chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union MoS sports Nisith Pramanik and state sports minister at a glittering event in **Bhopal** on Saturday evening. The highlight was a drone show that created magic in Bhopal's night sky with hundreds of drones forming a sprinting cheetah, maps of India and Madhya Pradesh and 'Khelo India Youth Games 2022' The Games will be organised in eight districts of Madhya Pradesh from January 30, with **Malkhamb and water sports** making their debut.

The **5th KIYG 2022** will be held from **January 30 to February 11**. There are **27** sporting disciplines on the schedule, with over **6,000 athletes** competing. '**Hindustan Ka Dil Dhadka Do**' - this is the heartpounding **anthem** of the Khelo India Youth Games 2022. And **cheetah Asha**, who was named by PM Narendra Modi, the **Games mascot**.

About Khelo India

The importance of sports and fitness in one's life is invaluable. Playing sports inculcates team spirit, develops strategic & analytical thinking, leadership skills, goal setting and risk taking. A fit and healthy individual leads to an equally healthy society and strong nation.

Sports is an extremely important component for the overall development of our nation. India, in the last few years has made steady progress in the field of sports. This tremendous potential needs to be showcased at a global platform. It's time we inspire young talent, give them top-notch infrastructure and training of the highest level. We need to inculcate a strong spirit of participation in sports that enables players to demonstrate their true potential. Only then can India realise its dream of becoming a sports super power.

The Khelo India programme has been introduced to revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level by building a strong framework for all sports played in our country and establish India as a great sporting nation.



World Hindi Day 2023

World Hindi Day 2023:

World Hindi Day or Vishwa Hindi Diwas is celebrated on **10th January** every year to promote awareness about the language across the world. It is also the day when Hindi, India's national language, was spoken for the first time in the United Nations General Assembly. It was on this day in 1975 that the first World Hindi Conference was held in Nagpur. Since then, such conferences are organised in different parts of the world every year.

Notably: The language got its name from the Persian term 'Hind' which means 'the land of Indus'. The language is spoken in India, Trinidad, Nepal, Guyana, Mauritius and other countries.

Theme of World Hindi Conference 2023:

The theme this year is "**Hindi - Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence**". This year, the 12th World Hindi Conference will be organised in Fiji by the Foreign Ministry in collaboration with the **Fiji government** from February 15 to 17. The location for the 2023 event was decided during the 11th World Hindi Conference held in Mauritius last year.

Significance of World Hindi Day 2023

The World Hindi Day or Vishwa Hindi Diwas is commemorated to mark the importance of Hindi as a language. It is considered one of the official national languages in India, especially in the northern part of the country. The day is also celebrated to represent the Hindi-speaking community on a global level. On the occasion of World Hindi Day, the Ministry of External Affairs organises several events around the world to spread more knowledge about Hindi.

History of World Hindi Day

The Union of India adopted Hindi as its official language in 1950. According to Article 343, the Constitution of India states that the official language of India shall be Hindi in Devanagari script. The first World Hindi Conference was envisioned by Rashtrabhasha Prachar Samiti, Wardha in 1973. It was organized in Nagpur on January 10, 1975. Its aim was to promote the language on a global level. The conference saw the participation of 30 countries with 122 representatives.

Vishwa Hindi Diwas was first celebrated in 2006 under the instructions of then-Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The date of January 10 was chosen as Hindi was spoken for the first time in the United Nations General Assembly on January 10, 1949. In 1975, the World Hindi Conference was formed by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi for bringing together Hindi scholars, writers and laureates who have contributed to the development of the language and appreciate their contributions.

Golden Globes Winners 2023 announced

The **80th edition of 2023 Golden Globes** show, hosted by **Jerrod Carmichael**, airs live on NBC and Peacock. The 80th Golden Globe Awards is the first edition of the annual spectacle to be on TV since an ethics, finance and diversity scandal involving the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, the group behind the awards, led NBC to decide not to air the 2022 ceremony. As in years past, the show will hand out honors in both film and TV categories.

Follow below for updates as winners are announced:

Category	Winners
Best TV Series, Musical or Comedy	"Abbott Elementary"
Best Performance by an Actor in a TV Series, Drama	Kevin Costner, "Yellowstone"
Best Director, Motion Picture	Steven Spielberg, "The Fabelmans"
Best Screenplay, Motion Picture	Martin McDonagh, "The Banshees of Inisherin"
Best Motion Picture, Non-English Language	"Argentina, 1985"
Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture, Drama	Cate Blanchett, "Tár"
Best Performance by an Actress in a TV Series, Drama	Zendaya, "Euphoria"
Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture, Drama	Austin Butler, "Elvis"
Best Motion Picture, Animated	"Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio"
Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy	Michelle Yeoh, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy	Colin Farrell, "The Banshees of Inisherin"
Best Performance by an Actress in a TV Series, Musical or Comedy	Quinta Brunson, "Abbott Elementary"
Best Performance by an Actor in a TV Series, Musical or Comedy	Jeremy Allen White, "The Bear"
Best Original Song, Motion Picture	"Naatu Naatu," "RRR"
Best Original Score, Motion Picture	Justin Hurwitz, "Babylon"

Henley Passport Index 2023, Japan retained its top position

According to the latest Henley Passport Index, **Japan** has retained its position as the most favourable passport in the world, allowing visa-free entry to 193 global destinations. which the country tops for the fifth consecutive year. **Singapore and South Korea** came in a joint second on the ranking, followed by Germany and Spain, and then a slew of other European nations.

Where does India rank?

The Indian passport was ranked 85th, giving visa-free entry to 59 destinations worldwide. In 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, the country ranked at 82nd spot, 84th, 85th and 83rd respectively. Indian passport holders can travel visa-free to 59 destinations like Bhutan, Indonesia, Macao, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Iran and Qatar. However, some countries require visa-on-arrival.

India's Neighbouring country

- 66. China (80 destinations)
- 100. Sri Lanka (42 destinations)
- 101. Bangladesh (41 destinations)
- 103. Nepal (38 destinations)
- 106. Pakistan (32 destinations)

Here's the list of the top 10 strongest passports in the world:

1. **Japan (193 destinations)**
2. **Singapore, South Korea (192 destinations)**
3. **Germany, Spain (190 destinations)**
4. Finland, Italy, Luxembourg (189 destinations)
5. Austria, Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden (188 destinations)
6. France, Ireland, Portugal, United Kingdom (187 destinations)
7. Belgium, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, United States, Czech Republic (186 destinations)
8. Australia, Canada, Greece, Malta (185 destinations)
9. Hungary, Poland (184 destinations)
10. Lithuania, Slovakia (183 destinations)

List of 10 countries that fall in the bottom 10:

100. Sri Lanka/Sudan (42)
101. Bangladesh/Kosovo/Libya (41)
102. North Korea (40 destinations)
103. Nepal, Palestinian territory (38 destinations)
104. Somalia (35 destinations)
105. Yemen (34 destinations)
106. Pakistan (32 destinations)
107. **Syria (30 destinations)**
108. **Iraq (29 destinations)**
109. **Afghanistan (27 destinations)**

About the Henley Passport Index:

The ranking, published by London-based immigration consultancy **Henley & Partners**, uses data from the **International Air Transport Association to rank 199 passports' access to 227 travel destinations**. The methodology differs from other passport indexes like one published by financial advisory Arton Capital, which put the United Arab Emirates in pole position. The ranking is based on data from the International Air Transport Association, which maintains the world's largest database of travel information, and it is enhanced by extensive, ongoing research by the Henley & Partners Research Department.

Nation Celebrates National Youth Day On January 12

National Youth Day is celebrated every year on **January 12** to mark the 160th birth anniversary of **Swami Vivekananda**. Every year on this occasion, the government organises National Youth Festival in collaboration with one state willing to host from **January 12 to January 16**. This year Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate the festival on **January 12 in Huballi, Karnataka**.

The basic objective of National Youth Day is to bring the youth of the country together in an attempt to showcase their talents in various activities to cover almost all socio-cultural aspects of life, providing an opportunity to amateur young artists to express themselves and interact with fellow artists and to further learn the new art forms from experts of various disciplines.

Theme of National Youth Festival

The Centre said the festival is held to provide exposure to youths at a national level and this year's theme for the four-day programme is "**Viksit Yuva – Viksit Bharat (Developed Youth – Developed India)**".

This year host state of National Youth Festival

This year the festival is being organized by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports in collaboration with the **Karnataka**. The event will be held from January 12 to January 16, 2023, at Hubballi- Dharwad, Karnataka. More than 30,000 youth will attend the inaugural function where the Prime Minister will share his vision with them. During this unique five-day event, over 7500 youth delegates from all over India, recognized and leaders in their own field of activity, get together to engage in different learning activities.

History of National Youth Day

In the year 1985, the government had declared the birth anniversary of **Swami Vivekananda, January 12, as 'National Youth Day'**. Since then, all the centres of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission have been celebrating the occasion through various programmes.

About Swami Vivekananda

- **Swami Vivekananda**, born Narendranath Datta on January 12, 1863, was a disciple of Sri 19th-century Indian mystic **Ramakrishna Paramhansa**. He went on to become a key figure in the introduction of the Indian darsanas (teachings, practices) of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world and was credited with raising interfaith awareness.
- Vivekanand was highly regarded as a major force in the contemporary Hindu reform movements in India and contributed to the concept of nationalism in colonial India.
- Famous for his famous speech in Parliament of **World's Religions in Chicago, 1893**, he focused on channelling the energy of the youth.
- As his teachings and practices had a huge influence on the youth, the Government of India in 1984 declared January 12 day as National Youth Day.

National Affairs

- **President Droupadi Murmu** laid the foundation stone of state-owned energy firm **SJVN's 1,000 MV Bikaner Solar Power Project**. The event was done virtually by the President of India in Jaipur, Rajasthan. The project is being implemented by SJVN Limited through its owned subsidiary SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Union Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** announced that India's first-ever coal gasification-based **Talcher Fertilizer Plant** in Odisha will be ready to be dedicated to the nation by October 2024. Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya visited the site on the second day and noted that the work in the plant in Talcher is in progress. ([Click here to read the article](#))



- **The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023** convention in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, was formally opened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Prime Minister urged Pravasi Bhartiya to support India's distinctive global perspective and its significant position within the international system on Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Prime Minister** has launched the government's **Aspirational Block Programme (ABP)**, which is aimed at **improving the performance of blocks** lagging on various development parameters. The Aspirational Blocks Programme is on the lines of the **Aspirational District Programme** that was launched in 2018 and covers 112 districts across the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated a **120-foot-tall statue of a polo player** riding a polo at Marjing Polo Complex in Imphal, Manipur. Manipur is known as the birthplace of the game polo. Chief Minister of Manipur N Biren Singh was also present during the inauguration ceremony and gave a polo mallet and a painting of the game to Home Minister Amit Shah. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Union Minister of State Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh released the theme for the "**National Science Day 2023**", titled "**Global Science for Global Wellbeing**" at National Media Centre. National Science Day is celebrated in India on 28th February every year to mark the discovery of the Raman Effect by Indian physicist CV Raman on 28th February 1928. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **28th edition of Saarang**, India's largest student-run festival begins at **IIT Madras**. Saarang 2023 will feature more than 100 events with participation from 500 colleges across the country. It is expected to see over 80,000 people at the festival. The fest will be held till 15th January 2023. The theme of this year's Saarang edition is 'Mystic Hues'. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated the '**Jai Hindi' Light and Sound Show at Red Fort**, in New Delhi. The show will include a Mathrubhumi Show, in which India's history of thousands of years has been integrated. The show will be for one hour and it is divided into three parts. It will highlight the rise of the Marathas, the war of Independence in 1857, the rise of the Indian National Army and INA trials, and the fight for Independence. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal**, along with **Tripura Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha**, inaugurated the **School of Logistics, Waterways and Communication in Agartala**. This new institution aims to provide **world-class education and training** to the region's talented individuals, allowing them to excel in the transportation and logistics industry. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **The world's longest river cruise, the MV Ganga Vilas**, which will travel 3,200 km over 27 river systems in five states in India and Bangladesh in 51 days, was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, January 13, 2022. The 51-day cruise has 50 stops planned, including major cities like Patna in Bihar, Sahibganj in Jharkhand, Kolkata in West Bengal, Dhaka in Bangladesh, and Guwahati in Assam. These destinations include world heritage sites, national parks, river ghats, and world heritage sites. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Ministry of Culture** has organized a grand curtain raiser cultural program '**Sur Sarita'-Symphony of Ganga**' on the launch event of the world's longest river cruise at Varanasi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the cruise on 13th January 2023. The grand concert named 'Sur Sarita'-Symphony of Ganga' was led by the renowned Indian singer Shankar Mahadevan at Kashi Vishwanath Corridor. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Digital India Startup Hub**, through the **Software Technology Parks of India**, shall set up **India's first Centre of Excellence in Online Gaming at Shillong** by March 2023. This was announced by Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, **Rajeev Chandrasekhar**, at a function in **Meghalaya's capital**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Union Labour and Employment Minister **Bhupendra Yadav** inaugurated the **Regional Office** of Employees provident Fund Organization (EPFO) at Alwar, Rajasthan. The Regional Office will help more than 2 lakh workers, 12,000 establishments, and 8,500 pensioners from Alwar and the neighboring districts of Bharatpur and Dholpur. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Kerala Cabinet** approved a scheme to ensure those employed under the **Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme(MGNREGS)** in the poll-bound state get benefits like pension and medical assistance. It has recommended that governor **Arif Mohammad Khan** issue an ordinance in this regard. With this, **Kerala** became the first state to have a **welfare board** for the beneficiaries of employment guarantee programmes in the country. At least 26.71 lakh labourers under the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee programme** and 2.5 lakh workers of the **Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme** will receive the benefits of the newly formed welfare board. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Chhattisgarh** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel celebrated the Cherchera festival at Dudhadhari Math in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The **Cherchera festival** of Chhattisgarh is celebrated on the full moon night of the 'Paush' Hindu calendar month. It is to celebrate the happiness and joy of taking crops to their homes after cultivation. Chief Minister Baghel extended warm wishes to all the citizens of Chhattisgarh on the auspicious occasion. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Kerala's '**Year of Enterprises**' Project was recognized as the best practices model at the National Conference on Micro Small and Medium Enterprises chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Project aimed to create 1,00,000 enterprises and has successfully created 1,18,509 enterprises and got investment worth ₹7,261.54 crores. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (retd)** has approved the **30 percent** horizontal reservation to domicile women of the state in the government jobs bill. The state assembly of Uttarakhand passed the Uttarakhand Public Services (Horizontal Reservation for women) Bill on 29th November 2022. The beneficiaries need to be women with a domicile certificate of Uttarakhand. ([Click here to read the article](#))

States in the News

- **Mysuru and Hampi** are the two popular destinations in **Karnataka** to be promoted as a part of the new Tourism policy '**The Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme**, which focuses on revving up destination tourism. Mysuru and Hampi are among the 19 places identified across the eight states and UTs in India to be promoted under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan** declared **Kerala** as the first state in the country to go **fully digital in its banking service** and said this recognition would **boost the state economy**. Vijayan said this achievement was possible due to social interventions through **local self-government institutions** along with **infrastructure development** and **technological advances** in the banking sector. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Indian High Commission** signed an MoU with the **Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka** to establish a Hindi Chair. The MoU aims to establish the Hindi Chair as a part of India's cultural connection through the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. The Indian Mission will also award a gold medal to the best-performing student of the Hindi Chair. The Sabaragamuwa University is a public university located in Belihuloya, Balangoda, Sri Lanka. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Kerala** has kicked itself into the **Guinness Book of World Records** by taking **4,500 penalty kicks in 12 hours**. The **Department of Sports and Youth Affairs** made it possible for the football-crazy State to set the Guinness record at a Dream Goal penalty shootout organised at **Payyanad Football Stadium at Manjeri**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Mongeeet** is a festival of music, poetry, art, craft, food, culinary techniques, indigenous herbs, and culture celebrated in Majuli, Assam. The Mongeeet festival started in the year **2020** as a movement of arts and music and it aims to nurture the upcoming musical talents of Assam. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The '**Saharsh**' was launched in 40 schools of the state on a pilot basis in August last year. This year, it will be extended to all **government and aided schools** in Tripura from the second week of January. ([Click here to read the article](#))

International Affairs

- **Taiwanese lawmakers** have passed new rules that let local chip firms turn **25% of their annual research and development expenses** into tax credits, part of efforts to keep **cutting-edge semiconductor technologies** at home and maintain the island's technology leadership. Officials there have repeatedly said they will ensure the latest chip technologies remain in **Taiwan**, a point that has been reaffirmed by executives at **Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co.** and other local chip giants. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The United States Parliament has elected **Kevin McCarthy** of the Republican Party as the speaker of the House of Representatives after 15 rounds of voting. He is the **55th speaker** of the US House of Representatives. He was serving as the House Minority Leader in the House. He has replaced **Nancy Pelosi**, the leader of the Democratic Party in the House of Representatives. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Indian-origin Sikh woman, **Manpreet Monica Singh** became the **first ever female Sikh judge** in the US after she was sworn in as a **Harris county judge**. Born and brought up in Houston, after her father immigrated to the US early in the 1970s, Singh currently lives in Bellaire with her husband and two children. In her career expanding over two decades, the newly appointed judge has been involved in numerous civil rights organizations at the local, state, and national levels. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- After a brief pause, **Hawaii's Kilauea volcano erupted again**, spewing lava fountains and discharges of volcanic ash into the air. The eruption started January 5, 2022 afternoon at the volcano's crater, according to a notice issued by the United States Geological Service (GSGS).lava from the volcano is contained in Kilauea's crater, a closed section of **Hawaii Volcanoes National Park**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Gabon's **President Ali Bongo** appointed the country's **first female Prime Minister Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda to the role of Vice-President** and named a new PM to replace her. Former Minister **Alain-Claude Bilie By Nze** will **replace** Ossouka Raponda and form a new government, Bongo's secretary general Jean-Yves Teale said in a video statement posted on the presidency's Twitter account. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The mission had been dubbed "**Start Me Up**," channeling the **Rolling Stones** to herald a new era of **British** space travel. The rocket was set to make history, carrying satellites on what would be the **first-ever orbital launch from the U.K.** . But Virgin Orbit says its **Launcher One rocket "experienced an anomaly"** just before it could deliver its payload, and the craft was lost. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Now **Punjabi** is all set to be taught in public schools in **Western Australia**. The language is all set to be introduced into the school curriculum. The Australian government is adopting Punjabi as the newest language after a 2021 census showed that it was the fastest-growing language in Australia with more than 239,000 people using it at home, an increase of over 80 per cent from 2016, reported SBS Punjabi. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **United States** announced that it will extend COVID-19 pandemic-era restrictions, known as **Title 42**, to expel migrants from **Nicaragua, Cuba and Haiti** caught crossing the **U.S.-Mexico border back to Mexico**. The move would block more nationalities from seeking **asylum in the United States**, and raises questions about the implications of this policy expansion and its legality. At the same time, the **White House** said it would open more legal pathways for **migrants** from those nations to apply to enter the country from abroad. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a rare announcement, the **United States** said its **ballistic missile submarine, USS West Virginia**, visited its **Indian Ocean military base at Diego Garcia**. Before it visited the base at Diego Garcia, the submarine had surfaced in the **Arabian Sea** and participated in a joint, US Strategic Command-directed communications exercise to validate emerging and innovative tactics in the **Indian Ocean**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Brazil's President-elect **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva** announced **Sônia Guajajara** as the first minister of the new Ministry of Indigenous People with a mandate to oversee policies ranging from land demarcation to health care. Sônia Guajajara is widely known as the leader of the main group of **Brazil's indigenous tribes** and is a member of the Amazon Guajajara. She was also featured in Time Magazine's annual list of the world's 100 most influential people. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The **United Arab Emirates** has named a veteran technocrat who both leads **Abu Dhabi's state-run oil company and oversees its renewable energy efforts** to preside over the upcoming **United Nations climate negotiations** in Dubai. Emirati authorities nominated **Sultan al-Jaber**, a confidant of UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who serves as CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- European officials and **Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf** inaugurated the **EU's first mainland orbital launch complex**. The European Union wants to bolster its capacity to launch small satellites into space with a new launchpad in Arctic Sweden. The new facility at **Espace Space Centre** near the city of Kiruna should complement the EU's current launching capabilities in French Guiana. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **Neeru Yadav, a.k.a. "Hockey Wali Sarpanch,"** has launched a fresh effort to support the farmers of Lambi Ahir Village. Yadav and NABARD have signed an agreement to launch the Farmers Producers Organization (FPO) with the help of SIIRD (Society of Indian Institute of Rural Development). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India and Panama have signed MoU to encourage cooperation in the training of diplomats. The MoU between India and Panama was signed by the External Affairs Minister of India Dr. Subramanyam Jaishankar and the Foreign Minister of Panama Janaina Tewaney Mencomon in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The Ministers have discussed the opportunities for greater economic, health, finance, and people-to-people linkage. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Broadcaster **Sony Sports Network**, which will air the **Australian Open** this month across its channels and **OTT app SonyLiv**. It has roped in sponsors like Hyundai Ioniq 5 and Samsonite as co-presenting sponsors and Panasonic as an associate sponsor for the upcoming open. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with chapters of 8 countries of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) at the 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas convention. The event was held at MP Tourism Pavilion at Brilliant Convention Centre in Indore. The MoUs were signed with **France Metropole Paris, Mauritius, Reunion Island, Martinique, Sri Lanka, GOPIO International, Malaysia, and Mauritius**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Books and Authors

- Former Chief Justice of India and member of the Rajya Sabha **Ranjan Gogoi** has released a book titled 'Chief Minister's Diary No.1' containing the account of events of the first year in office of Assam chief minister **Himanta Biswa Sarma**. The book featured accounts of daily activities he undertook as a chief minister. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Journalist **Tamal Bandyopadhyay** has released his latest book "**Roller Coaster: An Affair with Banking**" with permission from Jaico Publishing House. Roller Coaster is a string of such stories and revelations from the country's foremost banking journalist's affair with the industry—even though banks were not ideal partners for such liaisons. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Techno-educationalist, Professor **K.K. Abdul Gaffar's** autobiography, '**Njaan Sakshi**' (me as the witness), was released by cricket legend **Mahendra Singh Dhoni**. The book was introduced by senior journalist T.A. Shafi. The first copy was received by Marwan Al Mulla, the CEO of Dubai Health Authority (DHA), from M S Dhoni. He also presented copies of the book to dignitaries including actor Tovino Thomas present at the occasion. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Jadunama**, a book written on veteran writer-lyricist **Javed Akhtar** by **Arvind Mandloi**, was released. Javed's wife, actor Shabana Azmi and children Zoya and Farhan Akhtar were present at the book launch. Farhan's wife, actor Shibani Dandekar also attended the event. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Health and Family Welfare Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** has officially launched the book titled "**Braving A Viral Storm: India's Covid-19 Vaccine Story**" in New Delhi. The book is co-authored by **Aashish Chandorkar and Suraj Sudhir**. The book launch comes ahead of India's second anniversary of starting its COVID-19 vaccination drive in January 2021. ([Click here to read the article](#))



- Home Minister **Amit Shah** has released a book titled "**Revolutionaries- The Other Story of How India Won Its Freedom**" at a function in New Delhi. The Author of the book is Economist **Sanjeev Sanyal** who is also a member of Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. Formerly a best selling author, Sanjeev Sanyal has served in the financial sector for almost two decades. Sanjeev Sanyal has been the Global Strategic and Managing Director of Deutsche Bank till 2015. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A new book "**Irrfan Khan: A Life in Movies**" will offer a compelling account of iconic actor Irrfan Khan's life and achievements, starting from his days at the prestigious National School of Drama (NSD) to his nearly a decade-long stint in television and his gradual ascent in the film industry. In the book, film critic Shubhra Gupta engages key people, including director Mira Nair, Vishal Bharadwaj, and Anurag Basu in conversation on the actor's art, craft and legacy. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Axis Bank** has signed an agreement with the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**, Bengaluru, to establish a **Centre for Mathematics and Computing** at the institute. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Fintech platform BharatPe** received in-principle authorisation from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as an online **payment aggregator (PA)**. The company said that an in-principle nod was awarded to **Resilient Payments Private Ltd**, a 100 percent subsidiary of Resilient Innovations Private Ltd (**BharatPe**). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued the list of **six credit rating agencies** that banks can use for the purpose of risk weighting banks' claims for **capital adequacy** purposes. The six credit rating agencies are Acuite Ratings & Research Limited, Credit Analysis and Research Limited (CARE), CRISIL Ratings Limited, ICRA Limited, India Ratings and Research Private Limited (India Ratings)\ and INFOMERICS Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **India's foreign exchange reserves** fell by \$70.1 billion in 2022, data released by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** shows. The forex reserves stood at \$562.9 billion in the week ended December 30. The decline in the **forex reserves** is partly due to the **RBI intervention** in the currency markets to stave off volatility and partly on account of depreciation of other major currencies held by the central bank. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** will auction **₹16,000 crore** of **sovereign green bonds (SGrBs)** in two tranches. The RBI will auction 5-year and 10-year **green bonds** worth ₹4,000 crore each on 25 January and on 9 February, and this would be a **uniform price auction**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- With the end near for the **London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor)**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** told **banks and other financial institutions** to stop using the benchmark as soon as possible and mandatorily by December 31 and move to any **Alternative Reference Rates (ARR)**. **Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR)** and **Sterling Overnight Interbank Average Rate (SONIA)** are the two popular alternatives, but are nowhere near as popular internationally as Libor, which is being phased out by this year's end. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Axis Bank** has informed the exchanges that it has entered into a revised agreement with **Max Financial** to acquire the remaining **7 percent stake in the latter**. The parties agreed that the valuation for the right to acquire the remaining 7 percent stake of **Max Life** will be through fair market value using discounted cash flow. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India's fastest payment app PayRup was launched in India on 9th January 2023. PayRup is built with the finest technology of web 3.0. It provides an advanced digital payment experience with an outstanding user experience and can pay utility bills and landline bills, recharge their mobile, broadband, DTH, and purchase gift cards. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India's growth** is expected to slow to **6.9 per cent** in Financial Year 2023, a 0.6 percentage point decrease since June, as the **global economy** and rising uncertainty weigh on **export and investment growth**, according to the **World Bank**. However, India is expected to be the **fastest growing economy** among the seven largest developing economies. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The current interest rate on **Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)** account deposits is 7.2% compounded annually. The revised rate was announced on December 30. This rate would apply to **KVP deposits** made in the **first quarter of the New Year 2023**. Amid rising inflation and repo rate hikes by the **Reserve Bank of India**, KVP depositors were expecting an upward revision in the interest rate. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Retail inflation** declined to a one-year low of 5.72 per cent in December 2022, mainly due to softening **prices of food items**. Also, it was well within the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI)** comfort range of 2 per cent-6 per cent for a second month, data released by the **Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** showed. The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation** rate eased to 5.72 per cent in December. It was 5.88 per cent in November, and 6.77 per cent in October 2022. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The phased roll-out of **E20 (20 per cent ethanol blending** in gasoline) will begin on April 1, **Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri** has said. The fuel will be available at select outlets and will not require changes to car engines. The proposed roll-out will give further impetus to the government's plans of achieving the level of **20 per cent ethanol blending** in the overall petrol supply in the country by ethanol supply year 2025-2026. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **incentive scheme** for the promotion of **RuPay Debit Cards** and low-value **BHIM-UPI transactions** (person-to-merchant) for the current financial year. The approved incentive scheme for promotion of RuPay Debit Cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions (P2M) in FY 2022-23 has a **financial outlay of Rs 2,600 crore**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **China's Alibaba Group** sold a 3.1% stake in Indian digital payments firm **Paytm** for a total of **\$125 million** through a block deal. Shares of the company fell as much as 8.8% to 528 rupees in afternoon trading, and was last down 5.8%. **Alibaba**, which held a **6.26% stake in Paytm** as of end-September, sold the stake at 536.95 rupees apiece. **Paytm's stock** has risen about 9% this year up to last close, after reporting strong preliminary figures for the third quarter. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India** was among the top five markets, globally, in terms of equity fundraising despite the quantum of funds raised declining by 43 per cent. According to a report by **Kotak Investment Banking**, funds to the tune of \$16.4 billion were transacted via equity capital market (ECM) activity in India in 2022. India's outperformance comes on the back of a sharper decline in ECM activity in major markets such as the **United Kingdom, Australia** and **Japan**. ECM activity globally took a hit on account of heightened volatility amid rising interest rates. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has launched **e-Bank Guarantee (e-BG) facility** in association with **National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)**. India's largest lender said this facility will bring about a revolutionary change in the banking ecosystem, where bank guarantee is frequently used in large volumes. By using the NeSL's platform, the bank customers and other beneficiaries will instantly get an e-Bank Guarantee without additional verification. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has instructed members of the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** ecosystem to allow non-resident account types such as **non-resident external (NRE)/ non-resident ordinary (NRO) accounts** having international mobile numbers to get onboarded and transact through UPI. To begin with, NPCI will be enabling transactions

from mobile numbers having country codes of **Singapore, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, USA, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom**, along with the current domestic country code. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a major boost to the **film and entertainment industry**, **PVR-Inox merger** has been approved by the **National Company Law Tribunal**. The NCLT judge has approved the scheme of merger in a verbal order. A written order is likely to be passed in the next 15-20 days. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India's forex reserves** declined by **USD 1.268 billion to USD 561.583 billion** for the week ended January 6, the **Reserve Bank** said. The overall reserves had increased by USD 44 million to USD 562.851 billion in the previous reporting week after two consecutive weeks of the slide. In October 2021, the **country's foreign exchange kitty** reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance** has announced the launch of its '360° Financial Protection with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance' digital-first campaign featuring cricketer **Suryakumar Yadav**. According to the company, Yadav has emerged as a consistent and dependable batter in the white ball format since his international debut. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Chetan Sharma** was reappointed as the chairman of the senior selection committee, exactly two months after his entire panel was disbanded by the **BCCI** for the Indian team's semifinal exit in the T20 World Cup. **Salil Ankola, Shiv Sunar Das, Subroto Banerjee and Sridharan Sharath** are new members of the selection committee. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Paytm Payments Bank** has received banking regulator RBI's nod to appoint **Surinder Chawla** as its Managing Director and CEO. The RBI, however, continues to bar Paytm Payments Bank from on-boarding new customers. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Anurag Kumar** was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of **Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL)**. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved Kumar's appointment to the post till the date of his superannuation i.e 31.01.2026. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Nutrition company **Herbalife Nutrition India Private Limited** is partnering with international women's cricketer, **Smriti Mandhana** as a 'nutrition sponsor'. She has had an incredible journey, taking the cricket world by storm with her batting performances. Currently, she is the vice captain of the Indian women's national cricket team. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Meta announced the appointment of former **Tata CLiQ CEO Vikas Purohit** as the **director of global business** group in India. In his new role, Purohit will lead Meta's strategic relationship with various brands and agencies to boost the adoption of digital tools for revenue growth of India's business. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Senior IAS Officer **A Santhi Kumari** has been appointed as the new **Chief Secretary of Telangana**. Santhi Kumari took charge as the first women Chief Secretary of the State at the Secretariat in BRK Bhavan. Santhi Kumari will take charge over incumbent Somesh Kumar, who was relieved from the Telangana government by the Union Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). ([Click here to read the article](#))

Defence News

- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**, a Maharatna and a Fortune Global 500 Company, has announced the launch of **Low Smoke Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO)** for the Indian Army in Jammu. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** has developed an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) to carry out logistic operations in the Himalayan frontier. The DRDO-developed UAV is capable of flying in the **Himalayan Environment** with 5kg of payload and even dropping bombs in the areas required. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- iDEX has signed its **50th SPRINT** contract with **Sagar Defence** for **Autonomous Weaponised Boat Swarms** for the Indian Navy. Autonomous Weaponised Boat is one of the technologies introduced out of the 75 challenges by the Indian Navy under the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** in 2022. Sagar Defence has developed the country's first Autonomous Weaponised unmanned boat with the capability for swarming. The contract was signed under an **Indian Navy project** of the Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC 7) SPRINT initiative. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Su-30MKI pilot Squadron Leader Chaturvedi** will be assigned to the **Veer Guardian 2023** in Japan. First female fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force (IAF), squadron commander Avani Chaturvedi, will participate in the inaugural air exercise Veer Guardian 2023. The goal of the exercise is to improve air defence cooperation between Japan and India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India** successfully carried out a test launch of the tactical ballistic **missile Prithvi-II** from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha coast. The Prithvi-II missile struck its target with high accuracy. The user training launch successfully validated all operational and technical parameters of the missile. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- India successfully carried out a test launch of the tactical ballistic missile Prithvi-II from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha coast. Prithvi-II is an indigenously developed surface-to-surface Missile short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) and has a range of around 250 km to 350 km. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Defence Acquisition Council(DAC)** approved three proposals worth **4,276 crore rupees** to strengthen the country's deterrence and combat readiness. **Defence Ministry** said, a meeting of Defence Acquisition Council held under the chairmanship of **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh**. The DAC has accorded approval for procurement of **HELINA Anti-Tank Guided Missiles**, launchers and associated support equipment which will be integrated to the **Advanced Light Helicopter**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** cleared the proposal for procurement of **VSHORAD (IR Homing) missile system** under design and development by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation(DRDO)**. In view of the recent developments along the **Northern borders(China)** there is a need to focus on effective **Air Defence (AD) weapon systems** which are man portable and can be deployed quickly in rugged terrain and maritime domain. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Japan Air Self Defense Force (JASDF) and the Indian Air Force will participate in the joint air exercise "Veer Guardian-2023" starting on January 12 at Hyakuri Air Base in Japan. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The 23rd of this month will see the **Aadi Shaurya - Parv Parakram Ka Tribal Dance Festival** and Military Tattoo at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi. The two-day celebration, according to the Defence Ministry, would display the strength of the Armed Forces and the cultural beauty of India's tribal cultures. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ship '**Kamla Devi**' the Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) which is designed, built, and delivered by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd to Indian Coast Guard was commissioned in Kolkata, West Bengal. Indian Coast Guard ship Kamla Devi is officially the **fifth and last vessel of the series of FPVs** designed and built by GRSE as per the specifications of the Indian Coast Guard. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- The **Harvard Law School Center** on the Legal Profession (HLS CLP) has announced **Chief Justice of India** Dr. DY Chandrachud as the 2022 recipient of its "**Award for Global Leadership**" in recognition of his lifetime service to the legal profession in India and across the world. The award will be presented to him in a virtual event on 11th January 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **University of Kerala** bagged the 'Overall Championship' at Padma Tarang, the **36th Inter University South Zone Youth Festival** at Sri Padmavati Mahila Viswa Vidyalayam (SPMVV) in Tirupati. Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, came the runners-up. With more than 700 registered participants from universities across South India converging on the campus. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **e-NAM**, a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, has won the **Platinum Award** in the **Digital Empowerment of Citizens Category** in **Digital India Awards 2022** held in New Delhi. The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, as Chief Guest of the event, has conferred the Digital India Awards, 2022. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Vivek Agnihotri's** film 'The Kashmir Files' has been shortlisted for **Oscars 2023**. That means now this film has qualified to get an Oscar. Actors Anupam Kher, Mithun Chakraborty, Darshan Kumar and Pallavi Joshi are also shortlisted for the best actor category. After RRR, there are three major entries from the Hindi film industry on the list namely **The Kashmir Films, Gangubai Kathiawadi, and Rocketry**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Actress **Aparna Sen** was honored with the lifetime achievement award at the opening ceremony of the **15th Edition of the Jaipur International Film Festival**. At the event, 282 films from 63 countries will be screened. Aparna Sen debuted in Satyajit Ray's Teen Kanya in 1961. The Government of India honored Aparna Sen with Padma Shri in 1987. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Over 1,000 Indian peacekeepers serving with the **United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)** have been honoured with the prestigious **UN medals at an award ceremony** where the parade was led for the first time by a woman officer of the Indian Army. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Summit and Conference

- **India** will host 'The Voice of Global South' Summit on January 12-13, **Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra** said. As many as **120 countries** will participate in the summit. The **virtual summit** is significant as India currently holds the **presidency of the G20 group** and **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** had earlier indicated that priorities would be shaped in consultation with developing countries. The 'Voice of Global South Summit' under the theme '**Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose**' envisages bringing together countries of the Global South to share their perspectives and priorities on a common platform. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- **Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID)** has been ranked 1st in Services Sectors across categories Gross Block, Value Addition, Net Profit, Net Worth, Dividend Declaration, and Contribution to the Central Exchequer and has also been ranked 3rd among the Top 10 profit-making Closes. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Delhi** was the **most polluted city** in India in 2022 with PM 2.5 levels more than double the safe limit and the **third highest average** PM10 concentration. Among the most polluted cities with respect to PM2.5 levels, **Delhi (99.71 micrograms per cubic metre) ranked first**, Haryana's Faridabad (95.64 micrograms per cubic metre) ranked second and Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad (91.25 micrograms per cubic metre) third. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Sports News

- Indian Tennis Player **Sania Mirza** (36-year-old), the former doubles World No. 1, has confirmed her retirement from professional Tennis. She announced that the **Dubai Tennis Championships**, a Women's Tennis Association (WTA) 1000 event in Dubai in February 2023 will be her last match. Prior to her last appearance, she is going to play in women's doubles at the Australian Open in 16 to 29 January 2023 alongside Kazakhstan's Anna Danilina. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Novak Djokovic** has defeated America's **Sebastian Korda** in a nerve-wracking final to win the Adelaide International men's singles title. Djokovic also equalled Rafael Nadal's tally of 92 ATP singles titles in the Open Era. Nadal and Djokovic are joint-fourth in the list after Jimmy Connors (109), Roger Federer (103) and Ivan Lendl (94). In the women's final at Adelaide International 1, **Aryna Sabalenka** won the women's singles by defeating Linda Noskova of the Czech Republic. This was her 11th WTA Tour singles title. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Gareth Bale** has announced his retirement from professional football at the age of 33. It brings an end to a career that saw Bale excel for **Southampton, Tottenham Hotspur, Real Madrid and LAFC**, while also establishing himself as one of the greatest players in Welsh football history. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Cricket South Africa (CSA)** has confirmed that Proteas all-rounder **Dwaine Pretorius** has retired from international cricket with immediate effect. Since making his international debut in 2016, the 33-year-old has represented South Africa across all three formats in 30 T20 Internationals (T20I), 27 One-Day Internationals (ODI) and three Tests. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Anahat Singh** won the Girl's U-15 squash title at **British Junior Open Tournament**. Anahat Singh was also one of the youngest players at the **Commonwealth Games 2022**. She won one of the most prestigious tournaments of the season in Birmingham, U.K. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India VS Sri Lanka**: Indian Cricketer, **Virat Kohli** has recorded the first century by an Indian in 2023 against Sri Lanka in the first One-Day International at the Baraspara Cricket Stadium in Guwahati. He made 113 off 87 balls. Kohli's **45th ODI ton** helped him equal **Sachin Tendulkar's** record for most centuries at home in ODI cricket. While Tendulkar had 20 centuries in 160 innings at home, Kohli smashed his 20 ton in his 99th innings at home. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Suryakumar Yadav** has become the fastest player to reach **1,500 runs** in T20 International cricket in terms of **balls faced**. He took only 843 balls to reach this landmark. In 45 matches and 43 innings, Suryakumar has scored 1,578 runs at an average of 46.41. He has three centuries and 13 half-centuries in the format, with the best individual score of 117. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Khelo India Senior Women National Kho Kho league** is to take place at Chandigarh University, Punjab. It will be held from 10th to 13th January 2023 in three phases. It is being organized by the Kho-Kho Federation of India with prize money of Rs 18 Lakh. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- France team captain **Hugo Lloris** has announced his decision to retire from international football at the age of 36. Lloris represented France in four World Cups and three Euros and captained Les Blues to the World Cup trophy in 2018. The Tottenham Hotspur shotstopper led his team to the World Cup final in Qatar, where they were beaten by Argentina on penalties. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Hockey India** has launched a new metaverse product to tie in with its hosting of the **Men's World Cup in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela** from January 13-29. '**Hockeyverse**', which Hockey India claims marks a first for a national sports federation, has been launched across the governing body's social media platforms and is designed to enhance the tournament experience for fans around the world. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Harry Brook** received the ICC Men's Player of the Month award after a blistering run of scores that helped England claim a historic World Test Championship (WTC) series victory in Pakistan. On the other hand, Australia's **Ashleigh Gardner** bagged the ICC Women's Player of the Month award for her contributions with bat and ball in the T20I series against India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Men's Hockey World Cup, 2023** has begun with a spectacular opening ceremony at the picturesque **Barabati Stadium in Cuttack** that was witnessed by thousands of hockey lovers in attendance from across the country and abroad. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Falak Mumtaz**, an 11-year-old girl from Jammu and Kashmir has bagged a gold medal in **National Sqay Championship**. Falak Mumtaz has achieved a gold medal in the National Sqay Championship which was held in Jammu. She is currently studying sixth standard at Aisha Ali Academy in Kulgam. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Schemes and Committess News

- **PM Narendra Modi** approved the new integrated food security scheme for providing free food grains to AAY and PHH beneficiaries. The new scheme has been named **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY)**. Under PMGKAY, free food grains will be provided, and two subsidy schemes will be included to strengthen the provision of NFSA 2013. Govt to spend 2 lakh crore for food subsidies in 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **MAARG (Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience, and Growth)** platform will be launched by **Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal**. The **Commerce Ministry** said MAARG, a portal to facilitate mentorship for **start-ups** across diverse sectors, and geographies, will go live on January 16. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Science and Technology News

- The **National Council of Science Museums** hosted **Astro Tourism - A Sky Gazing** event at Delhi's India Gate in collaboration with the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Arjun Ram Meghwal, minister of state for culture, gave the event's opening remarks. ([Click here to read the article](#))



- **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** launch vehicle will carry a satellite built by 750 girls attending government schools across the nation, according to Space Kidz India, a Chennai-based space tech business. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- An Indian-American aerospace industry expert has been appointed as **NASA's new chief technologist** to serve as principal advisor to Administrator Bill Nelson on technology policy and programmes at the space agency's headquarters. **A.C. Charania** joined the space agency in his new role on January 3. He replaces another Indian-American scientist Bhavya Lal, who served as acting chief technologist prior to the former's appointment. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL)** has invented a "System and Method for Controlling Generation and Movement of Fugitive Dust" and obtained a patent for the same in December 2022. This system is developed to be used in **mines, thermal power plants, railway sidings, ports, and construction sites** where coal and other minerals or fugitive materials are stored in the open sky. The system will reduce the dust generation from open source as well as provide noise attenuation. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A 'green' comet from the outer solar system will pass through our area of space for the first time in 50,000 years this month. It providing skywatchers with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see this celestial phenomenon as it approaches Earth and the sun. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Startup firm **IG Drones**, which was born out of the Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT) campus in **Odisha's Sambalpur** has developed a **5G-enabled drone** that is capable of vertical take-off and landing. As it's a **VTOL (Vertical Take-off and Landing)**, it can be operated from any terrain without the need for a conventional runway. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India** is observing the **Road Safety Week** from **11th to 17th January 2023**, under "**Swachhata Pakhwada**", to propagate the cause of safer roads for all. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Armed Forces Veterans Day** is celebrated on **14th January since 1953**, the First Indian Commander in Chief (C-in-C) of Indian Army- Field Marshal KM Cariappa, who led Indian Forces to Victory in the 1947 war, had formally retired from the Services. The Day is celebrated as Armed Forces Veterans Day and dedicated to our esteemed Veterans. This year 7th Armed Forces Veterans Day celebrates on 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Indian army day 2023** is celebrated on **15th January 2023** and it mark the **75th anniversary** of the Indian army day. Every year on January 15, India celebrates its Army Day. It is the day on which Field Marshal **Kodandera M. Cariappa (then a Lieutenant General)** took over as the first Commander in Chief of the Indian Army from the last British Commander in Chief of India, General Fransis Bucher in the year 1949. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Important Days News

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry** is organising **Startup India Innovation Week** from 10th January 2023 to 16th January 2023 to celebrate the **Indian Startup Ecosystem** as well as **National Startup Day** (16th January 2023). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **National Human Trafficking Awareness Day** is observed every year in the **United States** on **11th January**. The day is dedicated to raising awareness about human trafficking. Even though the entire month of January has been recognised as the National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, January 11 specifically aims towards the prevention of illegal practices. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and former West Bengal governor, **Keshari Nath Tripathi** passed away at 88. Born on November 10, 1934 in erstwhile Allahabad, Tripathi was also a senior advocate at the Allahabad High Court. He joined RSS when he was just 12 and later switched to Bharatiya Jana Sangh. He was jailed in Naini Central Jail in 1953 for participating in the 'Kashmir Andolan' and again in 1990 for taking part in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Padma Awardee **Dr Tehemton Erach Udwadia**, an Indian Surgeon and Gastroenterologist, who was known as the '**father of laparoscopic surgery in India**' passed away, at the age of 88. He was born on 15th July 1934 in the Bombay Presidency, British India (now Mumbai, Maharashtra, India). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Socialist** stalwart and former JD(U) chief **Sharad Yadav** passed away. He was 75. He is survived by his wife, daughter and son. A 7-term **Lok Sabha** and 4-term **Rajya Sabha** member, Yadav, a former Union Minister, had not been keeping well for some time. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A british linguist and educator specialised in Dravidian languages, **Ronald E. Asher** has passed away at the age of 96. A fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society, London, Asher won a gold medal from Kerala Sahitya Akademi, Trichur, in 1983 and was honoured by the Royal Society, Edinburgh in 1991. He was also a recipient of a medal from College de France, Paris in 1970. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Obituaries

Miscellaneous News

- **The International Kite Festival 2023** has began on 8 January in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**. The festival, which is being organised after a gap of two years, was inaugurated by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. The previous edition was held in 2020 with 153 participants from 43 countries. The festival is being organised by Gujarat Tourism on the G20 theme of **'One Earth, One Family, One Future'**. Apart from Ahmedabad, the International Kite Festival will also be organised in Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot, Dwarka, Somnath, Dhordo and Kevadia. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Former India cricket team captain **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** and drone market **Garuda Aerospace** have launched a surveillance drone named **'Droni.'** Dhoni is an ambassador-cum-investor in the low-cost drone manufacturer. Dhoni had unveiled the camera drone called Droni at The Global Drone Expo in Chennai last year. Droni is a battery-operated quadcopter surveillance drone. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A joint initiative by the **Vidisha District Administration** and the **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)**, **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**, under the direction of Additional Secretary (Telecom) & Administrator USOF, made Vidisha, a district of Madhya Pradesh, the first district ever in India for on-ground implementation of groundbreaking **5G** use cases proposed by startups. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Static Takeaways

- ICICI Bank Headquarters: Vadodara;
- ICICI Bank MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi;
- ICICI Bank Chairperson: Girish Chandra Chaturvedi;
- ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.
- BCCI President: Roger Binny;
- BCCI Headquarters: Mumbai;
- BCCI Founded: December 1928.
- Paytm Founded: August 2010, Noida;
- Paytm CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma (Dec 2010-);
- Paytm Parent organization: One97 Communications;
- Paytm Founder: Vijay Shekhar Sharma.

- International Air Transport Association Founded: 19 April 1945, Havana, Cuba;
- International Air Transport Association Headquarters: Montreal, Canada;
- International Air Transport Association Director General: Willie Walsh.
- ICC Founded: 15 June 1909;
- ICC Chairman: Greg Barclay;
- ICC CEO: Geoff Allardice;
- ICC Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- State Bank of India Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara;
- State Bank of India Founded: 1 July 1955;
- State Bank of India Managing directors: Praveen Kumar Gupta;
- State Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Indian Overseas Bank Founded: 10 February 1937, Chennai;
- Indian Overseas Bank Founder: M. Ct. M. Chidambaram Chettyar;
- Indian Overseas Bank Headquarters: Chennai.
- Brazil's Capital: Brasilia;
- Brazil Currency: Brazilian Real.
- National Dairy Development Board Headquarters location: Anand;
- National Dairy Development Board Founded: 1965;
- National Dairy Development Board Founder: Verghese Kurien;
- National Dairy Development Board Chairman: Meenesh Shah.

